

Application No. 10/689,465  
Amendment filed August 12, 2004  
Reply to Office Action mailed May 12, 2004

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### Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims.

#### ***Listing of Claims***

Claims 1-8 (canceled):

Claim 9 (currently amended): A clamping apparatus for electrically connecting at least a first ground wire to a grounding member, the clamping apparatus comprising:

a bottom clamping member comprising a bottom medial portion and a first and second threaded holes, one on first and second both sides of the bottom medial portion for accepting first and second screws, respectively;

a top clamping member cooperating with the bottom clamping member and comprising a top medial portion aligned to cooperate with the bottom medial portion and corresponding first and second holes on first and second sides, respectively, either side of a the top medial portion that correspond to the threaded holes; and

a trough comprising a base wall and a first and second side wall, the trough being attached to the top medial portion of the top clamping member on a side opposite the bottom clamping member, the first sidewall having a threaded hole and a set screw adapted to tighten against the second sidewall, wherein the trough is arranged with an opening between the first and second sidewall,

wherein the set screw is positioned such that when the first ground wire is positioned in the trough, the set screw can be tightened to apply pressure so that the first ground wire is secured between the set screw and the second sidewall and the set screw extends outside the trough to prevent the removal of one of the first and second screws.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 9, wherein the corresponding first and second holes on first and second sides, respectively, either side of a the top medial portion are slightly larger in diameter than the

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threaded holes to allow a screw to pass through each hole in the top clamping member and thread into the corresponding threaded hole in the bottom clamping member, thereby providing a clamping action around the ground member between the top and bottom clamping members when the screws are tightened.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 9, wherein the trough opening is arranged so that the first ground wire can be laid-in the trough at some intermediate point on the ground wire ~~and tightening the set screw applies clamping pressure to the first ground wire between the set screw and the second side-wall.~~

Claim 13 (previously presented): The clamping apparatus of claim 9, wherein one or both of the top and bottom medial portions are crowned in a direction away from the respective other medial portion to create an opening between the top and bottom clamping members for accommodating the grounding member.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The clamping apparatus of claim 13, wherein one or both of the crowned medial portion(s) has a serrated surface within the opening between the top and bottom clamping members for accommodating the grounding member.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The clamping apparatus of claim 9, wherein the set screw has a rounded end for applying clamping pressure against the first ground wire.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The clamping apparatus of claim 9, wherein the set screw further includes a sliding wedge affixed to an end of the set screw, the wedge adapted to move through the trough as the set screw is tightened and to engage the first ground wire for applying clamping pressure against the first ground wire in cooperation with the second sidewall.

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Claim 17 (previously presented): The clamping apparatus of claim 9, wherein the trough is adapted to accommodate an additional second ground wire laid-in along side the first ground wire in the trough, said first and second ground wires being mechanically and electrically connected by the clamping pressure of set screw.